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Reply to: Ft. Myers

August 29, 2001

**OPERATION "THUNDER" SWEEPS NUMEROUS
ALLEGED DRUG DEALERS OFF THE STREETS OF
FT. MYERS AND LEE COUNTY**

A five-month investigation into the activities of local drug traffickers, code named "OPERATION THUNDER," culminated today in an early morning sweep as dozens of federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, Ft. Myers Police Officers and Lee County Sheriff's Deputies fanned out and arrested several individuals who have been federally indicted on charges of distribution of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

From March through August 2001, agents from DEA teamed up with the Ft. Myers Police Department and Lee County Sheriff's Office and made undercover purchases of cocaine. In addition, one indictment also alleges that a defendant sold an undercover officer a double-barreled shotgun in conjunction with selling drugs. Those arrested this morning on federal charges were brought to the Lee County jail and then turned over to the U.S. Marshal Service. This afternoon they will make their first appearance before a Federal Magistrate where their charges will be read and a bond hearing will be set for a later date. If convicted, some defendants face up to 20 years in federal prison, while others face up to 40 years.

Managing Assistant United States Attorney Doug Molloy, who is representing United States Attorney Mac Cauley, thanked the participating agencies and their department heads who included:

Sheriff Rod Shoap - Lee County Sheriff's Office

Chief Hilton Daniels - Ft. Myers Police Department

Frank Chellino - Special Agent in Charge DEA

Joseph D'Allessandro - State Attorney's Office

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryant R. Camareno. An indictment is merely an allegation that a crime has been committed. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until the entry of a plea, or until the defendant is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

NAMES OF THOSE INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES

Charles Kendrick, age 29, unknown address

Rhonda Elizabeth Williams, age 29, 4335 Armada Street, Ft. Myers

Frederick James, age 23, 57 Billy Creek Drive, Ft. Myers

Gregory Lamar Caldwell, age 23, 3011 Franklin Street, Ft. Myers

Oliver Freeman, age 19, currently in State custody

Johnnie Lee Freeman, age 68, 2180 Barker Blvd., Ft. Myers

Marvin Lenard Peacock, age 27, 105 Lucille avenue, Ft. Myers

Wendell Lee Strong, age 27, unknown address

Torindo Brown, age 23, unknown address

Mardocheur Jeune, age 26, currently in federal custody

NAMES OF THOSE ARRESTED ON STATE CHARGES

Vincent Waylon Davis, age 21, 2914 Market St., Ft. Myers

Edward Temple, age 21, 100 Diana Ave., Ft. Myers